

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 OES-07 AID-05 NASA-01 AGRE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3508

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - POSSIBLE USE OF LANDSAT DATA

REF: (A) MEXICO 10371, (B) STATE 152151

1. PARA NINE OF REF (A) SUGGESTED THAT, IF BENDIX PROPOSAL ACCEPTED, POSITIVE GROUND TRUTH COULD BE OBTAINED BY ASKING GOM TO PLANT POPPIES AT CULIACAN AND FORWARD BASES. THIS WOULD PROVIDE ERROR-FREE DATA BASE FROM WHICH BENDIX COULD WORK, BUT WOULD DELAY BENDIX START-UP UNTIL POPPIES MATURE ENOUGH TO DETECT.

2. ANOTHER POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE WOULD INVOLVE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF ILLICIT FIELDS EXISTING ON DATE OF LANDSAT OVERFLIGHT. GOM AND DEA SPOTTERS, PERHAPS ASSISTED BY SURVEYORS, COULD DEVOTE ONE OR TWO DAYS IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDING SCHEDULED LANDSAT OVERFLIGHT TO CATALOGUING FIELDS BY PRECISE COORDINATES, SIZE, MATURITY OF POPPIES (AND/OR MARIJUANA), TERRAIN SLOPE AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION NEEDED BY BENDIX.

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3. TO ACCOMPLISH ABOVE, EMBASSY WOULD NEED (A) EARLY NOTIFICATION THAT PROPOSAL ACCEPTED TO PERMIT APPROACHING GOM FOR ASSISTANCE AND, ASSUMING GOM APPROVAL, DEVELOPING ACTION PLAN KEYED TO LANDSAT OVERFLIGHTS, AND (B) SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING LANDSAT OVERFLIGHTS OF POPPY AND MARIJUANA PRODUCTION AREAS. OVERFLIGHT DATA SHOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE FROM NASA.

4. THERE IS, OF COURSE, DANGER THAT EFFORT TO CATALOG
A NUMBER OF FIELDS PRECISELY COULD BE WASTED IF CLOUD
COVER PREVENTS LANDSAT SENSING OF AREA ON SELECTED DAY.
IN THIS EVENT, WE AND GOM WOULD HAVE TO REPEAT FIELD
IDENTIFICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT LANDSAT OVERFLIGHT. WE
FEEL CERTAIN THAT GOM, IF BROUGHT IN AS GROUND-FLOOR
PARTICIPANT, WOULD COOPERATE FULLY.
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5. RECOMMENDATION: THAT EMBASSY BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED
OF DEPARTMENT DECISION ON BENDIX PROPOSAL AND THAT,
MEANWHILE, DEPARTMENT OBTAIN FROM NASA AND FORWARD TO
EMBASSY LIST OF SCHEDULED LANDSAT OVERFLIGHTS OF
CULIACAN-SAN JOSE AREA FOR FOUR-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING
AUGUST ONE. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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